

## Message Text

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20

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 OIC-04 DRC-01 COME-00 /146 W

----- 127453

R 180706Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0279

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USUN NEW YORK 0186

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: ECAFE -PRG - KHMER ISSUES

1. I TALKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM MARCH 16 ABOUT ISSUE OF SEATING PRG AND GRUNK DELEGATIONS AT FORTHCOMING ECAFE MEETING IN COLOMBO. I REVIEWED REASONS BEHIND OUR POSITION WHICH WERE FAMILIAR TO RAJARATNAM FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. RAJARATNAM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT EFFORT WOULD BE MADE AT ECAFE MEETING MERELY TO ADMIT PRG AS OBSERVERS. HE SAID IT IS UP TO VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD REPRESENT THEM IN SUCH MEETINGS AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE. IF MATTER COMES TO A VOTE, HE SAID, SINGAPORE WOULD ABSTAIN. HE  
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POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL OBSERVERS REPRESENTING SPECIAL

INTERESTS ARE REGULARLY PERMITTED TO ATTEND SUCH MEETINGS.

2. I ASKED RAJARATNAM WHY GOS HAD APPARENTLY CHANGED ITS VIEW ON THIS ISSUE SINCE UNGA WHERE SINGAPORE VOTED WITH ITS ASEAN PARTNERS AGAINST SEATING OF GRUNK. RAJARATNAM SAID THAT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ISSUE. VOTE IN GA WAS TO OUST LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND REPLACE IT WITH GRUNK. ON THAT ISSUE, HE SAID, GOS WAS OPPOSED SINCE GKR WAS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT ENTITLED TO UN MEMBERSHIP AND GRUNK WAS NOT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THIS WILL NOT BE ISSUE AT ECAFE.

3. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT GOS WAS SPLITTING HAIRS, AND THAT WHETHER IT WAS QUESTION OF OUSTING GKR/GVN OR ADMITTING GRUNK/PRG AS OBSERVERS, IN EITHER CASE IT WOULD GIVE GRUNK/PRG ADDED PRESTIGE AND DEGREES OF LEGITIMACY THAT WOULD ENHANCE THEIR POLITICAL POSITION AND MAKE SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KHMER/VIETNAMESE PARTIES MORE DIFFICULT. THIS APPEARED MAKE NO DENT ON HIS ATTITUDE ON THE MATTER.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOS DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE SIDES ON THIS ISSUE AND IS USING THE ARGUMENT ON OBSERVER STATUS AS A RATIONALE FOR THEIR POSITION. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE CAN GET THEM TO CHANGE THEIR VIEW, BUT IF THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES COME OUT ON OUR SIDE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PERSUADE THE GOS TO GO ALONG IN INTEREST OF ASEAN SOLIDARITY. FACT THAT INDONESIA VOTED OTHER WAY AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE (STATE 045800) MAY MAKE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

5. IF WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT EFFORT WILL BE MADE AT COLOMBO TO SEAT PRG AS FULL MEMBER, RATHER THAN AS OBSERVER, WE WOULD HAVE CHANCE OF GETTING GOS TO OPPOSE AS THEY DID AT UNGA. PLEASE ADVISE. IN ANY EVENT, I WILL MAKE FURTHER APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE, BUT BEFORE DOING SO WOULD LIKE INDICATION OF PROBABLE LINE-UP OF VOTING AT COLOMBO. GOS LIKES TO BE ON THE WINNING SIDE ON ISSUES OF THIS KIND AND IF WE CAN DEMONSTRATE PRETTY SOLID SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE THERE IS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY OF PERSUADING THEM TO VOTE WITH US.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING OBSERVERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECAFE -PRG - KHMER ISSUES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SN, CB, PRG, (RAJARATNAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005